

THE HICKMAN COURIER.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Let the Democratic Party Name the Changes Faror.

It is assumed that the most intelligent, progressive and best thought of Kentucky, favors a new constitution.

And yet the proposition has been submitted several times to the vote of the people, and as often been rejected, or failed.

In each of the several elections, the two great political parties, the Democratic and Republican, representing approximately all the voters of the State, in their State conventions, have resolved in favor of the proposed Constitutional Convention.

Why then has it failed?

The friends of a new constitution give different reasons for the failure, chief of which, is the difference of the people in voting, the law controlling the vote, and the manner of voting.

Parsons the inquiry further, and ask the cause of this difference, and the manner of voting.

The usual answer is that the voters of Kentucky are not informed as to the changes needed, and therefore do not understand or appreciate the promised benefits from such changes.

This is largely true, and the intelligence of the voters, is not necessarily reduced upon either, because the average voter is not occupied with his farm, or any avocation, is neither expected to be a constitutional lawyer, or even well read up as to the defects of his State constitution.

But in addition to the ignorance of voters as to needed changes, as a cause for the indifference of the people, there are other causes, potent cause, and this among men of intelligence, and that is a desire of a conservative, conservative, being the reforms as discussed by the people.

The State constitutions provide for change and amendments, not only through organic conventions, but also through the Legislature, and the State Legislature submitting any needed or desired amendment to a direct vote of the people.

The Kentucky constitution does not allow this, but if our State Legislature could submit amendments, it would be a great improvement.

Many voters now feel that a vote for a constitutional convention is a "leap in the dark," a blind step; but, if the Democratic party, which will be the controlling power in the convention if called, will give its public faith to guarantee "that day for day," that the changes be carried.

Better still, if the Republican party, also, as a party, would give its public faith to guarantee "that day for day," that the changes be carried.

1st.—Prohibiting counties and towns from voting railroad taxes.

2d.—Abolishing the office of County Assessors, and making Magistrates the Assessors.

3d.—Compelling acts of Incorporation for private companies, lodges, &c., to be obtained through the County Courts.

4th.—Reforming the Court system.

5th.—Ballot vs. viva voce voting.

State Tax in Kentucky.

From the Commonwealth.

While it is the boast of Kentuckians that they have next to no State debt, the State tax is \$1.2 cents for every dollar of property.

The Hickman Courier says: A comparison of Kentucky with other States of similar wealth and population, and of those carrying a large bonded debt, will show that the State is required to pay only about half the rate of taxation that Kentucky imposes on her people.

The Courier further states that by giving the amount of the State tax and State debt in Iowa, Michigan, and Texas, each of which has about the same population as Kentucky:

Iowa—Tax, 25c; State debt, \$24,435.

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County Taxation.

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